

**Natural Resources Conservation Service**

**Application Ranking Summary  
EQIP - Merrimack General Grazing**

<b>Program:</b> EQIP 2014	<b>Ranking Date:</b>	<b>Application Number:</b>
<b>Ranking Tool:</b> EQIP - Merrimack General Grazing		<b>Applicant:</b>
<b>Final Ranking Score:</b>		<b>Address:</b>
<b>Planner:</b>		<b>Telephone:</b>
<b>Farm Location:</b>		

**National Priorities Addressed**

Issue Questions	Responses
If the application is for development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP), the agency will assign significant ranking priority and conservation benefit by answering "Yes" to the following question. Answering "Yes" to question 1a will result in the application being awarded the maximum amount of points that can be earned for the national priority category.	
1. a. Is the program application to support the development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP)? If answer is "Yes", do not answer any other national level questions. If answer is "No", proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section.	250 Point(s)
Water Quality Degradation – Will the proposed project improve water quality by: (select all that apply)	
2. a. Implementing the practices in a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP)?	15 Point(s)
2. b. Implementing the practices in a Nutrient Management Plan (NMP)?	10 Point(s)
2. c. Reducing impacts from sediment, nutrients, salinity, or pesticides on land adjoining a designated "impaired water body" (TMDL, 303d listed waterbody, or other State designation)?	10 Point(s)
2. d. Reducing the impacts from sediment, nutrients, salinity, or pesticides in a "non-impaired water body"?	10 Point(s)
2. e. Implementing practices that improve water quality through animal mortality and carcass management?	10 Point(s)

Water Conservation – Will the proposed project conserve water by: (select all that apply)	
3. a. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce aquifer overdraft.	15 Point(s)
3. b. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce on-farm water use?	10 Point(s)
3. c. Implementing practices in an area where the applicant participates in a geographically established or watershed-wide project?	10 Point(s)
3. d. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm water use as a result of changing to crops with lower water consumptive use, the rotation of crops, or the modification of cultural operations?	10 Point(s)
Air Quality - Will the proposed project improve air quality by: (select all that apply)	
4. a. Meeting on-farm regulatory requirements relating to air quality or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?	10 Point(s)
4. b. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm emissions of particulate matter (PM2.5, PM10)?	10 Point(s)
4. c. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm generated greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide (CO2), methane (CH4), and nitrous oxide (N2O)?	10 Point(s)
4. d. Implementing practices that increase on-farm carbon sequestration?	10 Point(s)
Soil Health:– Will the proposed project improve soil health by: (select all that apply)	
5. a. Reduce erosion to tolerable limits (Soil “T”)?	10 Point(s)
5. b. Increasing organic matter and carbon content, and improving soil tilth and structure?	10 Point(s)
Wildlife Habitat – Will the proposed project improve wildlife habitat by: (select all that apply)	
6. a. Implementing practices benefitting threatened and endangered, at-risk, candidate, or species of concern.	10 Point(s)

6. b. Implementing practices that retain wildlife and plant habitat on land exiting the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) or other set-aside program?	10 Point(s)
6. c. Implementing practices benefitting honey bee populations or other pollinators?	10 Point(s)
6. d. Implementing land-based practices that improve habitat for aquatic wildlife?	10 Point(s)
Plant and Animal Communities: Will the proposed project improve plant and animal communities by: (select all that apply)	
7. a. Implementing practices that result in the management control of noxious or invasive plant species on non-cropland?	10 Point(s)
7. b. Implementing practice in an Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPM)?	10 Point(s)
Energy Conservation– Will the proposed project reduce energy use by: (select all that apply)	
8. a. Reducing on-farm energy consumption?	10 Point(s)
8. b. Implementing practice(s) identified in an approved AgEMP or energy audit, which meet ASABE S612 criteria?	10 Point(s)
Business Lines – Will the practices to be scheduled in the “EQIP Plan of Operations” result in:	
9. a. Enhancement of existing conservation practice(s) or conservation systems already in place at the time the application is received?	10 Point(s)

#### State Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
1. Will the application enhance an existing riparian buffer with tree and shrub planting (willow live stakes), create a buffer with practice (391), or install a filter strip within 35 feet of the water's edge?	75 Point(s)
2. Does this application include practices included in the application that will move animals 35 feet from all surface water, wetlands, or other sensitive areas? Do not answer yes to both Questions 2 and 3.	75 Point(s)

3. Are practices included in the application that will move animals 35 feet from surface water, wetlands, or other sensitive areas? Do not answer yes to both Questions 2 and 3.	50 Point(s)
4. Does the application include one or more conservation practices identified in a Grazing Plan to address an existing water or soil quality resource concern?	50 Point(s)
5. If an existing Prescribed Grazing Plan is to be implemented, does the application include prescribed grazing with a twice weekly rotation?	25 Point(s)
6. Does the application include forage and biomass planting (on hayland) to address resource concerns (overall rating of <25 - poor or very poor) identified on the NH Pasture & Hayland Condition Score Sheet? Do not answer yes to both State 6 and 7.	50 Point(s)
7. Does the application include forage and biomass planting (on hayland) to address resource concerns (overall rating of <30 - fair) identified on the NH Pasture & Hayland Condition Score Sheet? Do not answer yes to both State 6 and 7.	25 Point(s)
8. Does the application include a legume seeding or overseeding?	50 Point(s)
9. Does the application include seeding of warm season/native grasses on 5 or more acres?	25 Point(s)
10. Does the application include practices to address surface or subsurface soil compaction?	50 Point(s)

#### Local Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
1. Does the application include practices to mitigate flood hazard, reduce sediment, nutrients, pathogens, or pesticides from entering surface water?	55 Point(s)
2. Does this application include practices to enhance soil health/quality?	55 Point(s)
3. Does the application include at least one practice to benefit wildlife (including pollinator habitat) within the treatment area?	55 Point(s)
4. Does the application include practices that will enhance perennial forage stand health and quality?	55 Point(s)

5. Is the land included in this application protected by a perpetual conservation easement?	30 Point(s)
---	-------------















































